

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the careful consideration given to this case by the Examiner. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant will address the issues raised in the Office Action in the order that they appear.

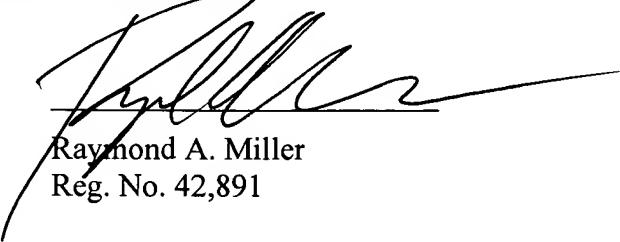
The Examiner has requested a substitute specification due to the presence of hole punches in the original specification. Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125. No new matter is contained in the substitute specification. A marked-up version showing the changes to the specification is attached hereto. The marked up version of the claims is provided separately.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated U.S. Patent No. 5,824,331 to Usala ("Usala"). The claims of the present application have been amended to reflect this difference. All of the claims have been amended to specifically recite "therapeutically effective amounts of L-arginine". It is respectfully pointed out that the "arginine analogs" of Usala are the exact opposite of what is being claimed by the applicant. The arginine analogs of Usala are nitric oxide inhibitors and scavengers (e.g. D-arginine) (see portion of Usala bridging columns 22-23). L-arginine acts as a substrate of NOS with resulting increase in production of nitric oxide (see page 4, lines 13-19 of the present application). Although Usala does teach of a composition of a matrix containing an arginine analog, the arginine analog as defined by Usala is not an equivalent and does not anticipate the claims, particularly as amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) on the basis as being clearly anticipated by Usala should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is believed that claims 1-20 are in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is courteously requested. Should the examiner have any additional comments or concerns regarding this case, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his convenience to address those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Raymond A. Miller
Reg. No. 42,891

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BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER,
COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP
2300 BP Tower
200 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44114-2378
(216) 363-4417